

CLAIMS

1. A surveillance unit, comprising:
a video camera which provides images in the form of electrical signals;
5 control circuitry which determines when to store images captured by the camera; and
a slot for operationally receiving a memory card on which the images are stored as
determined by the control circuitry.
2. A surveillance unit according to claim 1, comprising at least one detector which
10 provides signals to the control circuitry.
3. A surveillance unit according to claim 2, wherein the at least one detector comprises an
infrared detector.
- 15 4. A surveillance unit according to any of claims 1-3, wherein the control circuitry
determines when the digital camera should capture images.
5. A surveillance unit according to any of claims 1-4, wherein the control circuitry
performs the determination responsive to video motion detection (VMD) performed on images
20 captured by the camera.
6. A surveillance unit according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the control
circuitry comprises a processor which receives the signals from the at least one detector and
determines whether to store the captured images.
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7. A surveillance unit according to claim 6, wherein the memory card comprises a storage
area for operational data of the surveillance unit.
8. A surveillance unit according to claim 7, wherein the operational data is downloaded
30 from the removable memory card to an internal memory of the surveillance unit when the
memory card is inserted to the surveillance unit.

9. A surveillance unit according to claim 7 or claim 8, wherein the operational data comprises a software routine run by the processor.
10. A surveillance unit according to any of claims 7-9, wherein the operational data
5 comprises one or more operation parameters of the surveillance unit.
11. A surveillance unit according to claim 10, wherein the one or more operation parameters comprise at least one operation parameter of the camera.
- 10 12. A surveillance unit according to claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the one or more operation parameters comprise at least one parameter which governs the level of indications required from the at least one detector to define an alarm state in which images from the camera are permanently stored.
- 15 13. A surveillance unit according to any of the preceding claims, comprising a communication link for transmitting at least some of the images captured by the camera.
14. A surveillance unit according to claim 13, wherein the communication link comprises a
20 wireless link.
15. A surveillance unit according to claim 13, wherein the communication link comprises a wire link.
16. A surveillance unit according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the control
25 circuitry stores a log of events on the memory card.
17. A surveillance unit according to any of the preceding claims, comprising an internal image memory for storing images captured by the camera.
- 30 18. A surveillance unit according to claim 17, wherein at least some of the captured images are stored on the internal image memory and are automatically downloaded to the memory card responsive to insertion of the memory card to the slot.

19. A method of controlling the operation of a surveillance unit, comprising:
storing operational data of the surveillance unit on a removable memory card; and
inserting the memory card into a predefined slot of the surveillance unit.

5 20. A method according to claim 19, wherein storing the operational data comprises
inserting the removable memory card into a reader coupled to a computer and writing the
operational data on the memory card by the computer.

10 21. A method according to claim 20, comprising receiving the operational data by the
computer over a communication link.

22. A method according to claim 20, wherein storing the operational data comprises using
a graphical software running on the computer to adjust the operational data.

15 23. A method according to any of claims 19-22, wherein the operational data comprises a
software which runs on a processor of the surveillance unit.

24. A method according to any of claims 19-23, wherein the operational data comprises
one or more operational parameters of the surveillance unit.

20 25. A method according to any of claims 19-24, comprising storing images captured by a
camera of the surveillance unit on the memory card inserted to the surveillance unit.